

Q2
3. (Amended) A card connector according to claim 1, wherein when one of said one or more switches is a card recognition switch to detect the presence or absence of the inserted card, one metal piece of said pair of metal pieces making up said card recognition switch is formed as a portion of said metal upper housing.

4. (Amended) A card connector according to claim 1, wherein said inserted card has a slidable write protect button at a side surface thereof and said first contact leaf spring and said second contact leaf spring each are a write protect switch configured to detect a slide position of the write protect button of said inserted card.

Q3
5. (New) A card connector according to claim 1 or 2, wherein one of said first contact leaf spring and said second contact leaf spring is formed as a portion of said metal upper housing.

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 4, 2002, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and has indicated that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Turning to the claims, claims 1-4 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benjamin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,015,311) in view of Vermeersch (U.S. Patent No. 5,911,587).

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Claims 1-4 have been amended to recite the invention more particularly. Claim 5 has been added to claim additional features of the invention. Further, the specification has been amended to correct inadvertent errors. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by this Amendment.

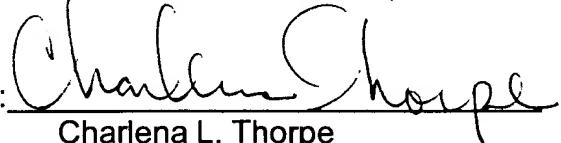
Regarding claim 1, the combination of Benjamin and Vermeersch does not disclose a switch comprising a first contact leaf spring, a second contact leaf spring, and a contact portion, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. See, MPEP 2143.03 (providing, "To establish a prima facie case of obviousness of a claimed invention, *all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.*"). Claims 2-5 are at least patentable based on their dependency from claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

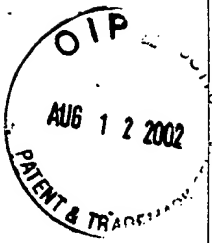
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Dated: August 5, 2002

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APPENDIX: VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 11 of page 10 with the following new paragraph:

When on the other hand the write protection button 3 is set at the write-disable position, as shown in Fig. 6B, the engagement portion 54a of the contact leaf spring 50 engages with the ~~bottom~~ write protect button 3 situated at the front part 2a of the recess 2 of the card 1 and the front engagement portion 74 of the contact leaf spring 70 engages with the bottom surface of the rear part 2b of the recess 2 of the card 1. At this time, the two contact leaf springs 50, 70 are in contact with each other through the front contact portion 54b and the contact projection 75 and the write protection switch SW1 is on.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-4 and add new claim 5, as follows:

1. (Amended) A card connector comprising:

a connector housing having a lower housing and a metal upper housing; and
~~contact terminals arranged to engage with contact pads of an inserted card; and~~
one or more switches each operated by engagement and disengagement of a pair of metal pieces;

~~wherein one of the each pair of metal pieces making up each of said switches is formed in said metal upper housing.~~

wherein at least one of said one or more switches comprises:

a first contact leaf spring formed on said connector housing, said first contact leaf spring having an engagement portion for engaging with a button of said inserted card when the button is in a first position;

a second contact leaf spring having an engagement portion for engaging with said button of said inserted card when the button is in a second position; and

a contact portion provided on at least one of said first contact leaf spring and said second contact leaf spring for electrical connecting said first contact leaf spring to said second contact leaf spring when said button of said inserted card is located in one of the first position and the second position.

2. (Amended) A card connector according to claim 1, wherein ~~said one of each pair of metal pieces~~ first contact leaf spring and said second contact leaf spring ~~each is~~ are a contact leaf spring extending from an end portion of said upper housing like a cantilevered beam. NO

3. (Amended) A card connector according to claim 1, wherein ~~said switch~~ when one of said one or more switches is a card recognition switch to detect the presence or absence of the inserted card, one metal piece of said pair of metal pieces making up said card recognition switch is formed as a portion of said metal upper housing.

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4. (Amended) A card connector according to claim 1, wherein said inserted card has a slidable write protect button at its a side surface thereof and said first contact leaf spring and said second contact leaf spring each are a write protect switch configured to detect ~~switch detects~~ a slide position of the write protect button of said inserted card.

5. (New) A card connector according to claim 1 or 2, wherein one of said first contact leaf spring and said second contact leaf spring is formed as a portion of said metal upper housing.

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